



Grant County

Labor Area Summary

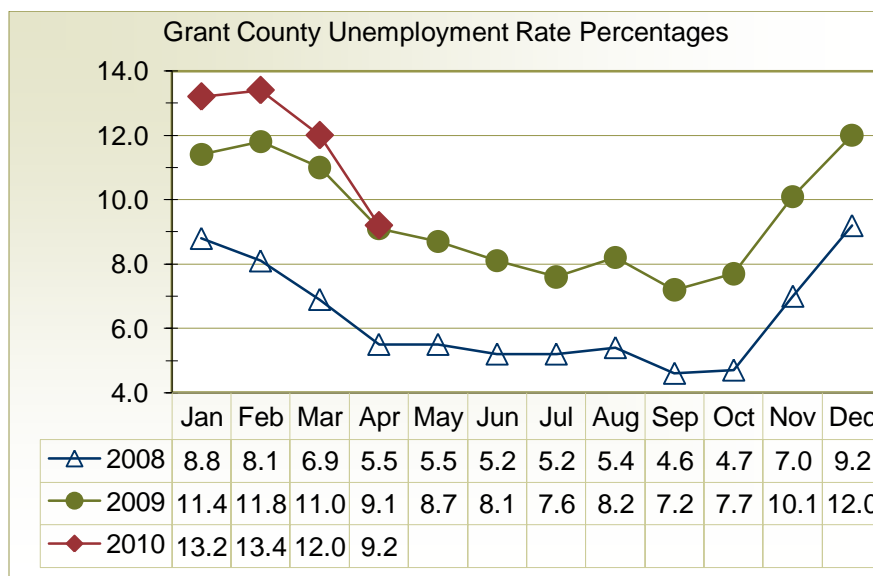
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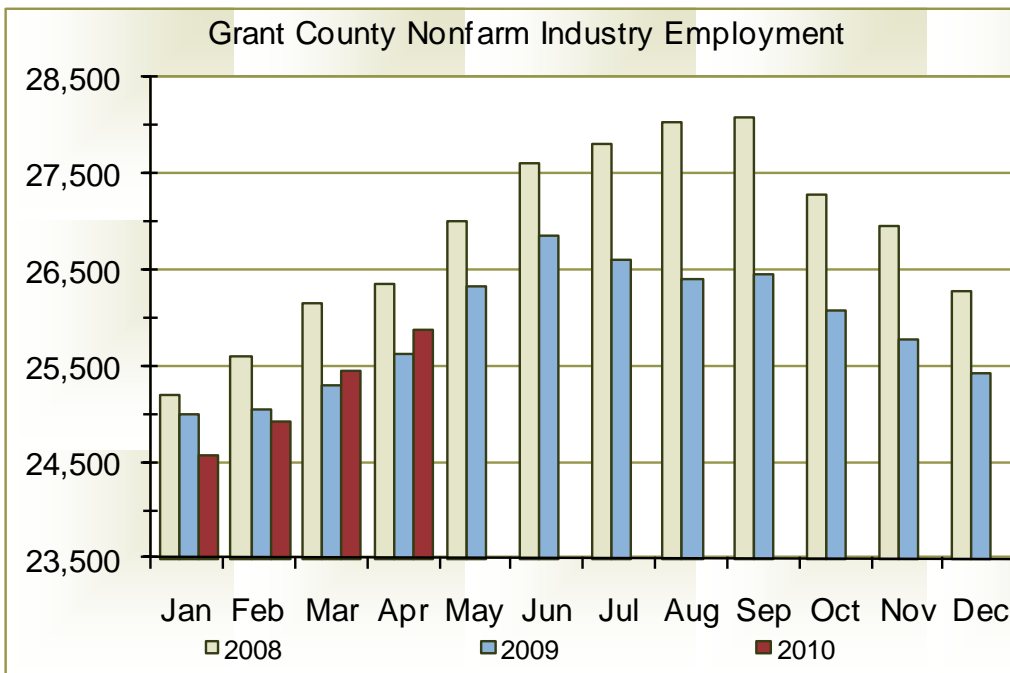
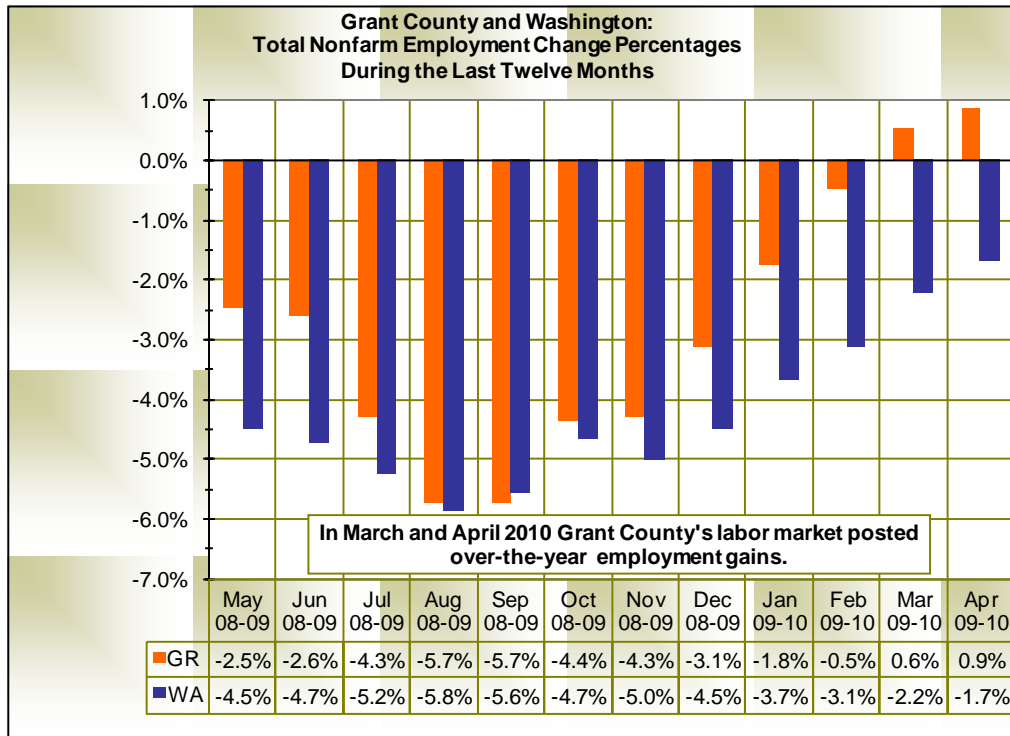
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Unemployment

The April 2010 unemployment rate of 9.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in Grant County was only a tick above the 9.1-percent reading in April 2009. Although the number of employed residents increased by 800 over the year (to 20,460 in April 2010), the number of unemployed increased more rapidly, precipitating this marginal over-the-year upturn in the unemployment rate. This is not all bad news. Why? There were 800 more residents working in April 2010 than in April 2009, indicating that many people who were not in the labor force in April 2009 (i.e., discouraged workers), reentered the job market. Many found work. Unfortunately, the job market has not yet been able to absorb them all. Finally, the number of Grant County residents drawing unemployment benefits (i.e., those who are in “Continued Claims” or “CC” status) was less in April 2010, when 2,103 residents were in CC status; than in April 2009, when 2,462 people were in CC status.



Employment



Both the Grant County and the Washington State labor markets shed jobs during calendar year 2009. The average number of nonfarm jobs in Grant County was 25,920 in 2009; a 950-job, or 3.5-percent decrease below the 26,870 jobs provided in 2008. Washington State's economy fared somewhat worse last year by losing 132,200 jobs, a 4.5-percent decline. However, a current snapshot of the local economy shows that nonfarm employers in Grant County provided 25,880 jobs in April 2010, a modest 220-job or 0.9 percent increase since April 2009. The lion's share of this expansion was attributable to a 390-job over-the-year

increase in Grant County’s trade, transportation, and utilities businesses (see Summary Table). Thus, Grant County’s labor market has “turned the corner” - and the future of the local economy looks bright because of planned business expansions and infrastructure improvements. For example, the 8 April 2010 edition of the Moses Lake *Columbia Basin Herald* announced that: “Grant County received an economic shot in the arm Tuesday (6 April 2010) with the official announcement of a BMW parts plant being built in Moses Lake. The project is expected to create about 80 jobs at first and ramp up to 200 jobs at full completion. SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers announced their \$100 million investment for the initial production phase of a carbon fiber manufacturing plant, according to the company. Between 150 and 200 construction jobs would result, said Theodore Breyer, deputy CEO of the SGL Group. . . The plant will manufacture carbon fibers for the future Megacity vehicle. A groundbreaking is set for June in Moses Lake.”

More encouraging news was posted in the *Grant County EDC January 2010 Newsletter* which mentioned that on 22 January 2010 the Washington State Community and Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) announced that \$3,000,000 in public investments had been allocated to Grant County to help create new jobs and stimulate business growth. This includes a \$1,500,000 loan and \$500,000 grant to the Port of Moses Lake to build an electrical substation; plus a \$1,000,000 loan to the Port of Warden to upgrade five existing grain storage silos, install a new oilseed crusher, and construct a biodiesel production facility.

Summary Table

Labor Market Information for						
Grant County						
Not Seasonally Adjusted/*Updated with ***QCEW Data: September 2009						
				Change		
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Mar-10	Apr-09	Apr-09
Employment by Place of Residence	Apr-10	Mar-10	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-10	Apr-10%
Civilian Labor Force	42,110	40,550	40,610	1,560	1,500	3.7%
Resident Employment	38,230	35,670	36,930	2,560	1,300	3.5%
Unemployment	3,880	4,880	3,690	-1,000	190	5.1%
Unemployment Rate	9.2	12.0	9.1	-2.8	0.1	
Employment by Place of Work (**NAICS Industry Titles)						
Total Nonfarm 1/	25,880	25,460	25,660	420	220	0.9%
Total Private	17,820	17,530	17,790	290	30	0.2%
Goods Producing	5,030	4,960	5,320	70	-290	-5.5%
Service Providing	20,850	20,500	20,340	350	510	2.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,770	5,760	5,380	10	390	7.2%
Information and Financial Activities	940	950	960	-10	-20	-2.1%
Government	8,060	7,930	7,870	130	190	2.4%
Workers in Labor/Management Disputes	0	0	0	0	0	
1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed services, workers in private households, and agriculture. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. Columns may not add due to rounding. *Prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch using a Quarterly Benchmark process. This process uses the most recent quarter from the Unemployment Insurance Tax Reports (currently third quarter 2009) and estimates employment from that point to present.						
North American Industry Classification System. *QCEW = Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages						